

THE AWAKENING OF JOHN SLATER

(JOHN ENTERS FROM C. D. MUMBLE OF VOICES FROM THE OTHER ROOM. AND HE LOOKS OFF C. AS THOUGH WATCHING SOME ONE GO OUT THE DOOR)

ADELE

(ENTERS R.) Did I hear voices, or was I mistaken?

JOHN

Pardon me, but your approach was as silent as the rustling of a mid-summer breeze.

ADELE

(KISSES JOHN) Well, sir. (BUS.) Thou art forgiven, so there!

JOHN

If I were assured of such forgiveness I would endeavor to offend thee a thousand times a day.

ADELE

Did I hear voices as I entered the room?

JOHN

Yes. I was entertaining a couple of callers

ADELE

And their business?

JOHN

They wanted me to make a political speech.

ADELE

And did you accept?

JOHN

No, it happens that I am on the other side of the fence.

ADELE

Didn't they know?

JOHN

No; they thought they did. Oh by the way, Adele, did you read the letter I had sent to your room this morning?

ADELE

I read the one from Mrs. Gregory inviting us to her reception. Was there more than one, John?

JOHN

The other one was from my home folks.

ADELE

And are they all well?

JOHN

The letter mentioned nothing to the contrary.

ADELE

And they send their love to me?

JOHN

Of course, Adele. You know they never neglect to do that.

ADELE

I am sorry I didn't see it, John. I will read it the minute I return to my room.

JOHN

You know, Adele, I feel terrible about the way I have been neglecting them lately.

ADELE

How so, John?

JOHN

My sister Nanny said that this was the third letter she had written me since receiving my last one.

ADELE

Well, that's a fault easily remedied. You have a stenographer at the office, also an pen and ink at home.

JOHN

You know, Adele, when I am at the office, my time is completely taken up, and then such a letter is always so cold and formal.

LUN

There, Nan! That's the word I was trying to think of last night when I was trying to tell you my stummick was so empty.

PAW

Lun, you are closer to trouble than you think you are.

NANNY

And don't think we are going 'cause we're mad, John, cause we had a good time!

LUN

Yep! I went down town---once! And bought a bag of peanuts---bought 'em myself!

PAW

Lun, I aint going to waste much more time on you.

NANNY

And we are not going cause we are mad.

LUN

No, I'm just tickled to death.

PAW

Lun! You better not get me riled up, young man.

JOHN

Father, I think I know why you are going home suddenly, but I have a reason a very urgent reason, won't you promise to remain?

PAW

No, John, we can't. But we are mighty glad we come, and we are mighty glad to see you getting along so well. But if you ever have any hard luck, or any sickness of any kind, just remember there will always be a place for you back home.

LUN

And if you have to eat in the kitchen, we'll all eat with you.

PAW

Lun, have you been listening to the things I been tellin' you?

JOHN

But, Father, can't you stay just a few days longer?

LUN

You mean that you want us to stay until you get back from Chicago?

PAW

~~Who said I was going to Chicago? Who said I was going to Chicago? Who said I was going to Chicago?~~

JOHN

Who said I was going to Chicago?

PAW

Lun, you open your mouth again and I'm going to slap daylights out of you.

NANNY

Now! Paw, don't lose your temper.

PAW

Well good bye, John, and don't worry none about us, 'cause we'll get along all right. Come, Nan, come Lun.

JOHN

Just a minute, Father. I know my wife will want to see you before you go. (RINGS BELL)

LUN

I expect she'd rather see us goin', than afore we go.

NANNY

Now John, you ought not to have sent for her. She may be upstairs sewing on something.

LYN

I'll bet she's at the top of the stairs with a brickbat waitin' to drop it on our heads as we go out.

PAW

ADELE

And at home, John?

JOHN

At home I am ashamed to write.

ADELE

Why, what have you done that you are ashamed of?

JOHN

It is what I have not done that I am ashamed of.

ADELE

Why, John, Xmas, we sent them a wonderful box.

JOHN

Yes, and such silly idiotic things! What will father do with a pair of white gloves and a high silk hat? And sister Nanny with an evening gown, when the poor girl doesn't know what it is intended for. And then that rough neck brother of mine with a pair of pajamas. He's sure to wear those pajamas for a new spring suit. You see!

ADELE

I am sure that I did the best that I could. And if you knew what they would have appreciated so well, why didn't you send it?

JOHN

Because what I would have suggested would have horrified you. What they would have appreciated would have been an invitation for them to spend the holidays with us.

ADELE

And how ridiculous! Why, John, they're not use to our ways, and they would feel out of place. They wouldn't know what to do ~~our~~ or how to act.

JOHN

Then it would be up to us to make them feel at home, and let them do and act as they pleased.

ADELE

Well, John, let's not quarrell over it any more, for I know they must be dear sweet lovable folks, so there! (BUS. KISS)

JOHN

Oh it's all right, Adele. I guess it's just a fit of blues on my part. So if you will excuse me, I think I will go to the library.

(EXIT)

ADELE

Certainly! (AFTER JOHN'S EXIT) You poor boob, any time that you think I'm going to mix up with a bunch of boobs like that, I don't. (PHONE BELL) Hello. Who? That you, Donald? What? Oh the same old thing, trying to get me to consent to have his folks here for a visit. Well, you know how I hate a rube, always did and always will. Look out. He's coming. (HANGS UP PHONE)

JOHN

(ENTERS R.) Adele, who was that on the phone?

ADELE

It was Donald. He wanted to see you this evening I believe.

JOHN

What about, do you know?

ADELE

It is something about a note coming due, and he wanted to know if you could help him out.

JOHN

I guess so. How much does he want?

ADELE

About a thousand dollars, I think he said.

JOHN

Yes, I can help him out to that amount.

ADELE

John, you will excuse me for awhile? I have a head ache and I think I will go to my room. (EXIT)

Why certainly, dear.

JOHN *opening*

CAL HENDERSON

(ENTERS C.) Hello, your butler said for me to just walk in. How are you, John?

JOHN

Well, I'm certainly glad to see you, Cal. How in the world are you?

CAL

Well, down at headquarters, they say I am alot like that old grey mule your father use to own. They always see me eat, but they never see me sleep.

JOHN

So you are a full fledged detective now?

CAL

Regular Sherlock Holmes so to speak,

JOHN

How do you like the work?

CAL

Well at first I like it fine; but once a farm always a farmer, eh, John

JOHN

I suppose so. Cal, when did you leave the old home town?

CAL

About two years ago. Just a year after you left.

JOHN

Have you been home since you came to the city?

CAL

About six months ago.

JOHN

Saw my folks of course?

CAL

I sure did, in fact, that is what I went for. You see my folks moved away.

JOHN

Why, Cal, you don't mean that you took that trip just to see my sister, Nanny?

CAL

~~IDENTIFIED IDENTIFIED IDENTIFIED IDENTIFIED IDENTIFIED IDENTIFIED IDENTIFIED IDENTIFIED IDENTIFIED IDENTIFIED~~
 I did, and the next time, I go there you are going to have a new borther-in-law.

JOHN

I thought you had forgotten Nanny long ago.

CAL

Mother used to say that when one truly loves, they never forget. And by the way, I saw Florrie when I was down there. And say, John, weren't you and Florrie sweethearts when you left?

JOHN

What makes you ask, Cal?

CAL

Oh nothin'. Only I saw some of the boys and they said that Florrie had not been quite herself after she read of your marriage. She took sick and came very near dying.

JOHN

You have never met my wife, have you, Cal?

CAL

No I don't thinkso.

JOHN

→ I'll ring for her and have you meet her. (STARTS)

CAL

Just a minute, John. If it is the same thing with you, I will wait and meet your wife when I come back. You see my first-w- visit was prompted partly by business.

JOHN

Partly by business?

CAL

Yes, you see I recieved a letter from Nanny today that should have reached me three days ago.

JOHN

(ANXIOUSLY) Nothing has happened to the folks; they are all well?

CAL

Yes, they are all well---but, John, they planned to surprise you.

JOHN

My brother Lun is not going to get married, is he?

CAL

Hardly. Lun said that he would not kiss a girl for the best hundred acre farm in the county. But they are coming here to pay you a visit.

JOHN

When, Cal?

CAL

The letter said that they would arrive at nine o'clock, the night of the fifteenth; and that is tonight.

JOHN

Why, Cal, it is nearly that time now. We had better hurry and meet them. (STARTS)

CAL

Just a minute, John. They don't want you to know that they are coming, they want to surprise you. I hated to spoil their plans but I was afraid that you might be away on business.

JOHN

Oh I see. They didn't want me to know that they were coming.

CAL

That's it, so don't let them know that you are wise.

JOHN

Don't worry; they will never know.

CAL

And about your wife---will she recieve them?

JOHN

She must, Cal, she must.

CAL

And, John, we must show them a good time, for they have been planning on this trip for months. Your father and Lun sold one of their teams and have been working nights on a thrashing machine. And Nanny has been doing Mrs. Kinsey's sewing and the neighbor's washing just to raise money to pay you this visit, and it's up to you to make them welcome.

JOHN

Make them welcome? Why, Cal, I'll make them the happiest creatures on earth.

CAL

I knew that you would. But I had better be going down to the station to meet them. See you later. (EXITS C. D.)

JOHN

(SITS DOWN) My father, sister, and brother coming here to see me. It's too good to be true, but they have been living in poverty while I have been living in luxury. Oh what a fool, what an idiot I have been.

ADELE

(ENTERS L. AND HEARS LAST OF SPEECH) Who is an idiot? You? I don't believe it.

JOHN

Well, I have been and I know that you will agree with me when you have learned the news.

ADELE

Of course it is good news?

JOHN

I think it is wonderful news. My home folks are coming to pay us a visit

ADELE

Those people coming here! When?

JOHN

The letter stated tonight.

ADELE

And you have kept me in ignorance until now?

JOHN

I didn't know it myself until just awhile ago.

ADELE

It's a lie! It's a trick you have played on me, thinking that once they were in this house, I would accept them. Well, my dear husband, you can inform your people that your wife is spending her vacation in Atlantic City, and I will remain there until you inform me that they have gone home.

JOHN

Adele, do you realize that it is my father, sister, and brother that you are talking about.

ADELE

Perfectly, my dear husband and now if you will excuse me, I will prepare to leave. (START L.)

JOHN

(STOPS HER) Oh no you don't. I want to find out whether you are a woman or a fiend. I want you to understand that my people have sacrificed more to make me this visit than I now believe you would be capable of sacrificing to save a fellow being from hell. They are coming to my home; and while they are in my home, it is going to be their home, and you are going to make them welcome!

ADELE

Do you mean to force me to remain?

JOHN

If necessary yes, but it's not going to be necessary, and I know that you will learn to love them once you know them. By the way, the friend who told me of their coming has gone to the station to meet them.

ADELE

And who is this obliging friend, another corn husker? He will be one of the party I presume?

JOHN

Undoubtedly as he is engaged to my sister, but he is not a corn husker any more, he is now a member of the Pinkerton Detective Agency. His name is Cal Henderson. (EXITS R.)

ADELE

Cal Henderson coming here? Oh well, I never saw him but once before in my life, and that was the night we robbed the Tillson house and it was as dark as the ace of spades. He didn't see me; and I didn't see him. They told me it was he. (NOISE OFF R.) Returning and already to meet the bunch. (BUS. OF LAUGHING AND EXIT L.)

JOHN

(ENTERS R.) Adele! Adele! Oh nonsense. Why can't she be reasonable? I wonder if she will receive them or not?

KIKKK PAW SLATER

(ENTERS C. D.) John! John, my boy! (SHAKE HANDS) Wasn't expectin' me was you, John?

JOHN

I should say not, father, but how in the world did you find the house.

PAW

Oh I come in one of those darned buggies that goes without being pulled.

JOHN

But, surely, father, you did not come all alone, and leave Nanny and Lun at home?

PAW

Well, you see, John, I did not know how you was fixed for rooms---

NANNY

(ENTERS C. D. AND EMBRACES JOHN) John! (EMBRACE)

JOHN

Nanny, my little sister! (EMBRACE HER)

NANNY

Well, John, we finally got here. (DOWN R.)

LUN

(ENTERS STUBS TOE, SHAKES HANDS WITH JOHN) (HE WEARS STRIPED PAJAMAS AS A SUIT)

JOHN

Well, Lun, how are you?

LUN

Just like a dow's tail, always behind.

JOHN

Well, folks, this is certainly some surprise.

LUN

I figgered it out all myself, John. They all wanted to come blotin' in at once, and I allowed it would hit you a harder lick if you didn't know we was all here.

JOHN

And your plan worked just fine, Lun.

PAW

(INDICATING HIGH HAT) You see I wore it, John. The first time I had her on since you sent her to me Xmas.

JOHN

And it looks good on your father.

NANNY

Say, John, didn't you get cheated in this dress? *you sent me for trousers*

JOHN

Cheated, Nanny, how?

NANNY

(TURNS AROUND SHOWING LOW BACK EVENING DRESS) Taint all here is it?

JOHN

Yes, Nanny, it is all there.

LUN

You see, Nan, I told you it was there. The less there is to it the more stylish it is. (BUS. LOOK AT PAJAMAS) But say, John, this suit you sent me sure is cool.. *It's so darn thin. Love colored.*

JOHN

Lun, you aren't supposed to wear that on the street.

LUN

Huh?

JOHN *Bath Robe*

Lun, that is a suit of pajamas. *You sleep in them.*

LUN

I do not. I sleep in my B. V. D.'s. Gosh, I wondered why everybody was staring at me, Paw. They must have thought that I was getting ready to go to bed. *Get ready to take a bath in a sewer.*

CAL

(ENTERS) Well, folks, did you surprise him?

JOHN

I'll say they did.

PAW

Say, John, where is she? I mean your wife.

JOHN

Oh she's somewhere around the house, father. You'll see her presently.

PAW

She aint doin' the supper dishes, is she? If she is Nanny, you had better go help her.

JOHN

No, father, she is not doing the supper dishes, and that reminds me have you folks had supper?

NANNY

Yes, we brought all we wanted to eat on the train with us. (LOOKS AROUND) Lun, where is our satchels? (ALL START LOOKING)

JOHN

Oh your stachels are all right. The servant will bring them in, soon.

NANNY

And, John, we saved you a piece of fried chicken, a piece of cake, and a piece of pie, and I made---

PAW

Don't tell him, Nanny. Just wait until you can show him.

LUN

They sure are nice and warm, John. (BUS.) I held the yarn while---

PAW

Lun, shut your mouth. He'll guess what it is.

LUN

Why shucks, I didn't say nothin' about mittens did I?

PAW

Lun, gosh ding it now you done gone and spoiled everything.

LUN

Oh well he would have knowed about it any way and say, Cal, Nanny made---

PAW

Lun, if you don't shut your mouth, I'll take you out to the barn and trim you down.

ADELE

(ENTERS L. SEES THEM AND STARTS TO EXIT)

JOHN

Just a moment, Adele, I want you to meet myfolks. Father, this is my wife, Adele.

PAW

(UP TO HER) I am proud to know you, Ma'am. (OFFERS HAND)

ADELE

(REFUSING HAND VERY COLDLY) So good of you to say so.

JOHN

This is my sister, Nanny. (POINTS TO HER)

CAL

(HAS NOTED OTHER BUS.) Please excuse, Nanny, John; she is telling me a funny story.

JOHN

That reminds me, Cal, you have never met my wife, have you?

CAL

If I have, I can't remember just where it was.

ADELE

So sorry, Mr. Henderson!

JOHN

Oh I almost forgot. This is my brother, Lun. Lun, this is your new sister.

LUN

(BUS. GRABBING HAND AND TRYING TO SHAKE IT) How are you, sis?

ADELE

(PULLING AWAY) So this is the bruh is it, John?

LUN

Yep! We're all here exceptin' the cat.

ADELE

(LAUGHS)

LUN

(LAUGHING WITH HER)

ADELE
(STOPPING SUDDENLY, SEVERELY) What are you laughing at?

LUN
Nothing. What are you laughing at?

ADELE
Why at you, you Billy Goat!

LUN
Well, if I'm a billy goat, you're my sister; and the sister of a billy goat is a nanny goat. Bahhhhh! (BUS. WITH CHIN)

" " "
(CURTAIN)

No I

ACT TWO

(THEY ARE ALL DISCOVERED READING. LUN IS ON THE FLOOR. PAW IN CHAIR READING BOOK. NANNY IN CHAIR NEAR TABLE)

PAW

(READING) The speech was one of the most powerful, one of the most influential that has been made during the---say, Han, what's this word?

NANNY

Spell it, Paw. (SHE IS SEWING OR DARNING SOCKS)

PAW

C A M P A I G N.

NANNY

Campaign.

PAW

Well what's the G fer? P A I N spells pain, don't it?

NANNY

YES, Paw, but the G's silent.

PAW

Well, if they don't want to use it, what in the thunder did they put it thar for? (READS) "During the campagin proving beyond doubt that Slater had made a careful study of the sit--u--a tion. He was to all appearances in--spired---

NANNY

Why, Paw, I thought John said it was going to be here in town.

PAW

So did I, but it says right here, just as plain as the nose on your face, that he was in---spired.

LUN

Oh well that aint fer from here.

PAW

"And presented his arguments in such a masterful way, that even the most obstinate were continued on page seven. Now what in the tarnation do they mean by that I wonder? Even the most obstinate were continued on page seven?

NANNY

Something about politics. I rekcon John will be able to tell you.

JOHN PAW

Well, John must have made a powerful big speech or there wouldn't have been nothing in this paper about it.

LUN

There aint nothing in that there paper about us coming to see John, is there, Paw?

PAW

Lord no, Lun. Why the fellow that prints this paper wouldn't know me if he met me right now on the street.

LUN

Well, I seed a fellow what thought he knowed me on the street yesterday.

NANNY

Who was it, Lun?

LUN

I don't know but he hollered at me.

NANNY

What did he say?

LUN

He said hello Rube.

NANNY

Well, I'll bet he took you for Rube Larken. He came to New York once and stayed most a month!

LUN

Well, I fooled him. I just hollered back and said "Hello yourself!" and I never let on but what that was my name.

NANNY

Lun, you should not have done that, after he tried to be so nice and friendly like.

LUN

I think there was a circus or camp meetin' or something in town yesterday.

NANNY

What make s you think so, Lun?

LUN

Well, wehn Cal took me downtown, we went on the main road and gosh there was a big crowd, but I don't think none of them knowed which road the parade was on, for some of them was shurryin' one way and some the other.

NANNY

Did you get to see it, Lun?

LUN

No, Cal said we wouldn't have time to. *could all wrapped up in it*

JOHN

(ENTERS R.) Good morning, Folks. How are you this morning?

PAW

Pretty good, John, but I reckon you are kinda tired out after that big speech you made last night, aint you?

JOHN

Just a little bit tired father.

LUN

Say, John, aint breakfast ready yet?

JOHN

Do you mean to tell me that you folks have not been to breakfast?

LUN

No and I bet four dollars, my stomach thinks my throat is out.

JOHN

Are you sure the cook knows that you are ready for breakfast?

LUN

You dad blamed tooten he does, for I told him and he said we would have to wait until he got the table sot.

JOHN

Table set, where?

LUN

Where he always sots it, in the kitchen.

JOHN

Do you mean to tell me that you have been eating in the kitchen

LUN

Do when you aint here.

NANNY

Well, you see, John, your wife said she didn't like to use the dining room only when you was here.

LUN

Well, I don't give a darn where we eat so long as we eat. I was so hungry when I went to bed last night I would have eat in the barn if I could.

JOHN

What, do you mean that you were hungry when you went to bed last night. Didn't you have your supper?

LUN

I smelt some of it, but that was as close as I come to it.

PAW

Lun, don't talk so much, will you?

LUN

Well, paw, I've got to do something to keep alive. If I stop my eating and talking both, what in thunder---

PAW

Lun, just keep still!

NANNY

Well, you see, John, your wife said that we had such a late dinner that she didn't think we would want any supper.

JOHN

What time did you have your dinner?

LUN

I don't know what time it was, but gosh ding it I couldn't eat much I don't like bacon, it's too darn fat and the bread was as dry as chips and no butter to put on it, and you know darn well, John, I never could drink coffee without puttin' some cream or milk or some thing in it.

NANNY

Now, Lun, the cook said the milkman didn't come.

LUN

The cook's got a private cow of his own then for I seed him taken' Johns' w wife dinner to her, and hers had fird chicken and butter and milk and everything on the table.

NANNY

Well, I'm sure that I had plenty.

LUN

Like heck you did! What did you say to me when we went up the stairs last night?

PAW

Lun, will you shut up?

LUN

Will when I get something to eat!

PAW

Lun!

NANNY

Now, John, don't go to no trouble for we are not a bit hungry.

JOHN

It's no trouble at all, Nanny, I'll call you when your breakfast is ready.

LUN

If the hen's laid, John, grab me an egg!

PAW

Lun, do you want me to tend to you?

JOHN

I'll be back presently. (EXIT R.)

NANNY

Now see what you have done. John and his wife will have another fuss just on account of what you said.

LUN

I don't give a darn. Don't like her any way.

PAW

Nanny, don't you think that we had better just get ready and go back home? It seems like Johns' wife aint going to take to us some wya or other.

LUN

Why Paw, I thought you said we were going to stay for two weeks.

PAW

Well, we was but 'spect John's wife fusses at him a whole lot just on account of our being here.

LUN

I know she does for I heard her.

NANNY

What did she say, Lun?

LUN

Well, John was askin' her why she didn't want him to show us around, and she said, well if you want to show off that bunch of freaks, why don't you rent a hall and charge people to see them? She said she

knowed folks that would pay a dollar just to get a look at us. Well she aint going to put me in no cage, I can tell her that.

NANNY

She don't like us. I know that; for the other night I passed her in the hall, and she shoved me again that thing you hagn your hats on and I hurt my shoulder too.

LUN

Well, she better not shove me that way; I'll swat her one! You notice she don't call me billy goat any more?

ADELE

(ENTERS L.) Nanny, I told you to stay away from my piano. Now I want you to stay away. Lun, put that book back. I want to close the case.

LUN

I'll put it back when I get through with it.

PAW

Lun, you'll put it back now.

LUN

(THROWS BOOK ON FLOOR) They aint no pictures in it no how.

ADELE

You ought to have your ears boxed! (EXITS)

LUN

Maybe so, but don't you ever try to box them or the doctor will be rubbin' you with sloan's liniment.

PAW

Lun!

LUN

Think you're darn cute, don't you?

CAL

(ENTERS C. D.) Good morning, folks, how are you this morning?

LUN

Well, I don't know about the others, but I'm pretty darn hungry.

CAL

Well, I sure do feel sorry for you, Lun, for it's almost two hours till dinner time.

LUN

I don't care nothin' about my dinner; I want my breakfast.

CAL

Breakfast?

PAW

Lun, I told you to keep your moth shut, didn't I?

NANNY

Cal, we want to thank you for taking us to show last night. It was just grand.

CAL

I'm glad you like it. We'll go and see another one tonight. That is, if you are willing.

PAW

We sure would like to, Cal, but we were thinking some of going home today.

CAL

Today? Why I thought you were going to stay another week.

PAW

Well, we was but we just got to worryin' about things at home, You see we had to leave everything for the neighbors to---

LUN

That's not the reason, Cal. We're going cause, John's wife---

PAW

Lun, I'm going to blister you if you don't keep quiet.

JOHN

(ENTER R.) Well, folks, if you will come with me your breakfast is ready.

no I

PAW

(X R.) Come, Nanny, come, Lun. (EXITS R.)

LUN

Aint you comin', Nanny?

NANNY

No. I don't want anything.

LUN

You better come on and fill up. John may not be here at dinner time. (EXITS R.)

JOHN

no II

Aren't you coming, Nanny?

NANNY

No, John, I don't care for nothing.

JOHN

Don't run away, Cal; I want to see you. (EXITS R.)

CAL

Nanny, what did Lun mean by saying you were going home on account of John's wife?

NANNY

Oh nothing. She don't like us. We aint her kind, and we oughtn't to have come here in the first place. She fusses at John, and he's just got to try and pelase her.

CAL

Well, I would like to see the color of a woman's hair that would make me mistreat my folks.

NANNY

That is what a lot of men say before they are married, but after they are married, it's different. That just goes to show you that there's two kinds of folks, and them that's ignorant can't get along with the educated folks. Their ways are different, and you just can't change them.

CAL

You are right, Nanny, for City Wives and Country Relations are a very rare mixture.

NANNY

When you went away, Cal, you said that you was coming back some day and we would be married, didn't you?

CAL

Yes, and I mean it too.

NANNY

Well, since I been here, I found out that it won't do for me to marry you.

CAL

Why, Nan, what do you mean?

NANNY

Why you are a city man now like John. You've got a lot of friends they wouldn't take to me you know they wouldn't. You couldn't take me to their house cause I wouldn't know how to act and you couldn't ask them to our house cause I wouldn't know wao to treat them. They would quit being your friends, and it would be all my fault.

CAL

There, Nan! You don't think you could get used to city ways?

NANNY

I don't know anything only what I learned on the farm.

CAL

I've been a city man, yes, but just long enough to know that I don't like it, for once a farmer always a farmer and that is why I bought the old homestead back, and that's where we are going to live.

NANNY

NANNY

Cal, are you in earnest or am I just dreaming?

CAL

No, Nan, you are wide awake.

NANNY

Cal, I'm so happy, I think I'm going to cry. (EMBRACE) Excuse me, Cal, I'm going to see what Pa and Lun are doing. (EXIT R.)

CAL

Now there is a girl that is going to make me happy. (UP TO C.)

ADELE

(ENTER L.) Ah, Mr. Henderson, and to whom are we indebted to for this early call?

CAL

Why I'm in love with Miss Slater, that's the answer.

ADELE

And with Nan of course the name is so romantic. Nan! That would inspire most any one.

CAL

Oh there's not so much in a name at that. I arrested a woman for bootlegging the other day, and she told the Judge that her name was Adele.

ADELE

Is that meant for an insult, Mr. Henderson?

CAL

It all depends on what you mean when you ridiculed the name of the girl I loved.

ADELE

It would be well for you to remember that at present you are in my house and that you are speaking to the wife of John Slater.

CAL

Well, if the wife of John Slater or any other man's wife thinks she can insult me or my friends without me resenting it, they have tackled the wrong boy.

ADELE

What! Insult Manuel, Lun or Nan. I wonder if it could be true?

CAL

I don't think that anything that you could do would be an insult to them. Your presence is an insult to them and your husband for you are not a woman, you are a fiend, a viper.

ADELE

Left alone the viper is harmless, trampled upon or aroused to anger, it's bite is death! I trust we understand each other, Mr. Henderson?

CAL

I understood you the first time I saw you; otherwise, I would not have spoken to you as I have. I have been warned by those words before, Mrs. Slater. I don't know where, but I'm going to find out. (EXITS C. D.)

ADELE

I've done it now. I remember I used those same words the night of the Tillson job. Oh here they come, the barn yard parade, corn bread, butter milk, and greens.

PAW

(ENTERS R. WITH NAN AND LUN) John sent us, mum. Now we don't want no apologizien or nothing like that. It was just some of Lun's dreaded fool talk that started it in the first place, and we want you to know we don't feel hurt about nothin'.

LUN

Will, when I'm hungry, I'll tell the world! And I was so hungry I would have ate a raw potato if I could have got one.

ADELE

And you, Nan?

NANNY

Well, I was hungry, but I never meant to say anything. But down where we come from, we'd feed a dog if it was hungry, and if it's cold and sotrmy we some times let him sleep in the house. But if you are sorry, I think a whole lot more of you than I did.

ADELE

I'm sorry, Nan, and I wish that you were going to stay longer so I could prove to you just how sorry I am. As I was saying to John it seems a shame to go home when I was just beginning to like you.

PAW

Why, Mum, did John know that we were figuring on going home today?

ADELE

Why I suppose so.

PAW

Why, Lun, you didn't say anything about it to him, did you?

LUN

No, but I'll bet four dollars he don't know we are out here talking about it.

ADELE

Well, maybe not but the fact of the matter is we have both arranged to go to Chicago tomorrow.

PAW

Why, Mum, we aint been in the way, have we? John, don't feel like we ought not to come, does he?

ADELE

Well not exactly. But a visit is a vist, and we didn't expect you to make this your home---

LUN

What to starte to death? Not on your life!

PAW

Lun, never mind!

ADELE

Well, there's such a thing as wearing out your welcome you know.

LUN

That would be hard to do here.

PAW

Lun, you keep quiet.

NANNY

Did John say that we were wearing our welcome out?

ADELE

It's not what one says, it's what one thinks.

LUN

If you think anything you don't say, I sure would hate to hear what it is.

PAW

Lun, will you shut your mouth?

ADELE

Now let's see---you've been here about a week, haven't you?

LUN

Yes, and I feel weak too!

PAW

Lun, do you want me to tend to you?

ADELE

I think that there is a train leaving about one o'clock, and I will have Lester prepare you some lunch.

NANNY

Why no, Ma'am, we could not think of puttin' you to that much trouble We can get what we want to eat on the train, and I think we can be ready by that time, don't you, father?

PAW

Yes, I guess so, Nan. Is John here, mam? We'd kinda like to see him before we go, just to say good-bye.

ADELE

He's in the library I think. I'll send him to you, but I would not say anything to him about our little talk if I were you. He feels so badly about you're going any way. In fact, we both just hate to see you go.

LUN

Kinda hate yourself sometime's don't you?

PAW

Lun, did you hear me tell you to keep quiet?

ADELE

Now is there anything you want before you go?

LUN

The only thing I want is to get out of this house as quick as the good Lord will let me.

PAW

Lun, I'm going to slap your jaws if you don't shut up!

ADELE

Lun, you are such a funny little fellow, but you remind me so much of an idiot.

LUN

Well, John's a bigger idiot than me fer marrying such an old mud hen.

PAW

You'd better pay some attention to what I'm sayin'.

ADELE

Well, good bye, folks, and don't get off at the wrong station!
(EXITS L.)

LUN

Well, if they put me off at the slaughter house, it will be better than this place.

PAW

Lun, are you ever going to stop? Nan, do you suppose that John thinks we've been here too long?

NANNY

No I don't. She just wants to get rid of us, that's all.

PAW

No, she seems mighty sorry about the way she's been treatin' us.

LUN

Yes, she reminds me of that old grey mule we got; she looks like that when you're a lookin', and when she catches you not a lookin' she whams you a good one.

PAW

Well, it won't do for us to stay any longer now, so we will get our things together. Come, Nan, come Lun. (EXIT R. WITH NAN)

LUN

Well, I want to get just one more good fill up on flap jacks and sorgum! (EXITS R.)

ADELE

(ENTERS L.) Fine! Now unless that idiot of a Lun got to tell John everything, I'll be rid of them today.

JOHN

(ENTERS R.) Why, Adele, where are the folks?

ADELE

They have gone upstairs to pack. I saw them, John, and tried to apologize as you asked me, but they wouldn't listen to me and insisted upon going home.

JOHN

Now Adele, we can't allow them to go home in this way. We must do

something to make them stay.

ADELE

Well, I did the best I could, John. But what hurt me the most was when your sister said she hoped she would never have to look up my face again. But I have a terrible headache. You will excuse me, won't you? (EXITS L.)

JOHN

Certainly, my dear.

CAL

(ENTERS C.) Hello, John. Where are the folks?

JOHN

Upstairs, packing.

CAL

Where are they going?

JOHN

Home!

CAL

That's funny, John; I was talking to Nanny awhile ago, and she talked like they were going to stay another week. Have you since the folks since your wife talked to them?

JOHN

Why---no.

CAL

Well, I would have a talk with them if I were you, and if you can't get them to stay I will drive them to the station. I am expecting a wire at headquarters. I'll be back soon. (EXITS C. D.)

JOHN

Going home! (SITS DOWN ON SETTEE LEFT)

(PAW, LUN, AND NANNY ENTER. DRESSED AS AT FIRST ACT)

JOHN

John, my boy, we don't want you to think hard towards us, but we just got to be gettin' back home.

JOHN

Why, father, Nan, what does this mean?

NANNY

It don't mean nothin', John, but we just got to worryin' about things back home.

LUN

And we didn't expect to make this our home when we come.

PAW

Lun, you had better not start talkin', do you hear me?

JOHN

Father, I don't see why you have made up your minds so suddenly?

LUN

Well, there is such a thing as wearing your welcome out, you know.

PAW

Lun, you had better pay some attention to me, or you'll feel a whole lot worse, in a minute.

JOHN

Now, Lun, you are repeating something that you heard someone say. Who was it?

NANNY

Why it was me, John. He heard me say it lots of times about the neighbors, aint you, Lun?

LUN

Yep; and I've heard it other places too.

PAW

Lun, you'd better not go too far with me.

JOHN

But, folks, if you go this way you are going to make me fell---just miserable!

PAW

Lun, you'll think a whole car load of bricks has dropped on you if you open your mouth again.

ADELE

(ENTERS L.) John, you wish to see me?

JOHN

Yes, Adele. The folks are leaving, and I knew that you would want to see them before you go.

ADELE

Why, John, I can't think of anything more I have to say to them.

LUN

I know she can't, or she would have said it awhile ago.

ADELE

Why, Lunnee, how can you say such a thing?

LUN

Now, look here! You can call me idiot or billy goat, but if you ever call me Lunnee again, I'll bite your ears off.

JOHN

Adele, how long will it take you to get ready for a short trip?

ADELE

That depends upon where you are going.

JOHN

I was thinking of going home with the folks.

PAW

John, do you mean it?

NANNY

Oh won't taht be nice?

LUN

Well sufferin' wildcats!

NANNY

And, John, paw will be killin' soon and you can have my room. I got a ndew carpet onthe floor and Lun gave me a big mirror for Xmas and Paw cut an extra window in my room, and you can see the crēek just as plain!

PAW

And they say that fishin' is good all along the creek.

LUN

And I got a two year old mule your wife can ride to church.

JOHN

Do you hear that, Adele? We will have just a glorious time.

ADELE

Possibly you might enjoy it. As for me, I shall remain at home.

JOHN

No, Adele; if I go, you shall accompany me.

ADELE

Then you had better change your plans, for I refuse to go.

JOHN

Very well then we shall stay at home, but the folks will remain also.

ADELE

And how long will we be blessed with their company, may I ask.

JOHN

Just long enough for you to do what you promised me you would do

ADELE

What do you mean?

JOHN

I mean that you lied to me. You say the folks, yes, but instead of apologizing to them, as you told me you did, you humiliated and insulted them. You have insulted me and now you've got to apologize.

ADELE

And I suppose that dear little Lun told you all of this.

LUN

LUN

You dern right I did!

PAW

Lun! (BUS. OF TAKING OFF COAT) (NANNY SLIPS IT RIGHT BACK ON HIM AGAIN. LUN SHAKES HANDS WITH HER AS IF THANKING HER FOR SAVING HIS HIDE. HOLD IT A SECOND)

ADELE

Well, John, I don't see where I owe either you or your people any apologies what so ever, by the way, I thought something like this would happen so I took the precaution to check out the very handsome fund you placed in the bank to my credit. Thank you, John. It was so generous of you.

JOHN

You are quite welcome to all you get.

ADELE

What do you mean?

JOHN

I thought all along that I was capabel of supplying you with all the ready cash that you needed. I mean there is no money in the bank to your credit. There never was and there never will be any money in the bank to your credit. Now if that is all you have to say, we'll excuse you.

ADELE

You hypocrite! You'll see that there is some money in the bank to my credit, or I'll make this cost you every cent you have in the world. (STARTS L.)

CAL

(ENTERS C. D. IN TIME TO HEAR LAST OF SPEECH) Just a minute. ~~kkk~~
~~kkkk~~ You are going out this way. (STOPS HER)

JOHN

My wife was just going to her room to pack her things.

CAL

Your wife, or rather this woman, is going to police headquarters with me.

JOHN

Why, Cal, what do you mean?

CALL

I haven't time to explain now. Come on, Nell.

ADELE

Who are you calling Nell?

CAL

You! And don't get huffy or I will put the bracelts on you. And don't worry; you won't be lonesome for Donald or rather Jerry is waiting in the wagon for you. I told you I would find out where I had heard those words before. Well, I have! And, John, don't let this rough stuff worry you, for this woman is not your wife.

JOHN

Not my wife?

CAL

No, she has marriage certificates scattered all over the United States and Cananda. Come on, Nell.

ADELE

Well, good bye, John. I'm so sorry I can't sty and help you entertain the bunch. Tata, Lun. *you funny bird*

LUN

Yep, I'm Lun and you are done!

CAL

(EXITS C. D. WITH ADELE)

PAW

John, does Cal mean that? That there cat aint your wife?

JOHN

Thank god, that is just what it does mean!